

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims to have the status and content indicated in the following listing of claims, wherein any cancellation of claims is made *without prejudice*.

1. (currently amended) A plasma substitute composition having a low blood clearance rate, the composition comprising a solution ~~of~~ in saline, in a physiologically acceptable concentration, ~~and of~~ of a protein having a colloid osmotic function wherein the protein ~~having a colloid osmotic function~~ is a recombinant gelatin-like protein ~~with~~ having a molecular weight of from at least 10,000 Daltons to at most 50,000 Daltons, ~~has~~ having an isoelectric point of less than 8 and comprising at least one stretch of at least 10 consecutive Gly-Xaa-Yaa triplets, wherein at least 5% of the total number of protein amino acid residues are proline residues and wherein the protein is not crosslinked by chemical modification.

2. (currently amended) A plasma-substitute composition having a low blood clearance rate, the composition comprising a solution ~~of~~ in saline in a physiologically acceptable concentration, ~~and of~~ of a protein having a colloid osmotic function wherein the protein ~~having a colloid osmotic function~~ is a dimer or a trimer or a tetramer of a recombinant gelatin-like protein monomer, the protein monomer having a molecular weight of from at least 10,000 Daltons to at most 50,000 Daltons, ~~and has~~ having an isoelectric point of less than 8 and comprising at least one stretch of at least 10 consecutive Gly-Xaa-Yaa triplets, wherein at least 5% of the total number of protein amino acid residues are proline residues and wherein said monomer, dimer, trimer or tetramer is not crosslinked by chemical modification.

3. (previously presented) Composition according to claim 1 wherein the recombinant gelatin-like protein monomer has a molecular weight of from at least 15,000 Daltons to at most 25,000 Daltons.

4. (previously presented) Composition according to claim 1 wherein the recombinant gelatin-like protein has an isoelectric point of from at least 4 to at most 7.
5. (previously presented) Composition according to claim 1 wherein the recombinant gelatin-like protein has, at pH 8, a number of negatively charged amino acid residues and a number of positively charged amino acid residues such that the number of negatively charged amino acid residues, minus the number of positively charged amino acid residues is at least 2.
6. (previously presented) Composition according to claim 1 wherein said recombinant gelatin-like protein is a human gelatin-like protein.
7. (previously presented) Composition according to claim 1 wherein the recombinant gelatin-like protein with an isoelectric point of less than 8 is obtained by replacement of glutamine by glutamic acid and/or replacement of asparagine by aspartic acid in an amino acid sequence from a natural collagen protein.
8. (original) Composition according to claim 1 wherein said recombinant gelatin-like protein comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 or SEQ ID NO: 4.
9. (currently amended) A process for providing a plasma expander comprising utilizing dissolving in saline a recombinant gelatin-like protein with a molecular weight of from at least 10,000 Daltons to at most 50,000 Daltons, said recombinant gelatin-like protein having an isoelectric point of less than 8 and comprising at least one stretch of at least 10 consecutive Gly-Xaa-Yaa triplets, wherein at least 5% of the total number of protein amino acid residues are proline residues and wherein said protein is not crosslinked by chemical modification.

10. (currently amended) A process for providing a plasma expander composition having a low blood clearance rate, the ~~composition~~ process comprising ~~utilizing~~ dissolving a dimer or a trimer or a tetramer of a recombinant gelatin-like protein monomer in saline, the protein monomer having a molecular weight of from at least 10,000 Daltons to at most 50,000 Daltons, said recombinant gelatin-like protein having an isoelectric point of less than 8 and comprising at least one stretch of at least 10 consecutive Gly-Xaa-Yaa triplets, wherein at least 5% of the total number of protein amino acid residues are proline residues and wherein said protein is not crosslinked by chemical modification.
11. (previously presented) The process according to claim 9 wherein the recombinant gelatin-like protein has a molecular weight of from at least 15,000 Daltons to at most 25,000 Daltons.
12. (previously presented) The process according to claim 9 wherein the recombinant gelatin-like protein has an isoelectric point of from at least 4 to at most 7.
13. (currently amended) The process according to claim 9 wherein the number of negatively charged amino acid residues at pH 8 in the recombinant gelatin-like protein ~~minus the number of positively charged amino acid residues at pH 8 in the recombinant gelatin-like protein is at least 2, optionally at least 3.~~ minus the number of positively charged amino acid residues at pH 8 in the recombinant gelatin-like protein is at least 2, optionally at least 3.
14. (previously presented) The process according to claim 9 wherein the recombinant gelatin-like protein is a human gelatin-like protein.

15. (previously presented) The process according to claim 9 wherein the recombinant gelatin-like protein comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 or of SEQ ID NO: 2 or of SEQ ID NO: 3 or of SEQ ID NO: 4.
16. (previously presented) Composition according to claim 1 wherein said recombinant gelatin-like protein comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2 or SEQ ID NO: 3.
17. (previously presented) Composition according to claim 2 wherein said recombinant gelatin-like protein comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2 or SEQ ID NO: 3.
18. (previously presented) Composition according to claim 2 wherein the recombinant gelatin-like protein monomer has a molecular weight of from at least 15,000 Daltons to at most 25,000 Daltons.
19. (previously presented) Composition according to claim 2 wherein the recombinant gelatin-like protein has an isoelectric point of from at least 4 to at most 7.
20. (previously presented) Composition according to claim 2 wherein the number of negatively charged amino acid residues at pH 8 in the recombinant gelatin-like protein, minus the number of positively charged amino acid residues at pH 8 in the recombinant gelatin-like protein is at least 2.
21. (previously presented) Composition according to claim 2 wherein said recombinant gelatin-like protein monomer is a human gelatin-like protein.
22. (previously presented) Composition according to claim 2 wherein the recombinant gelatin-like protein monomer with an isoelectric point of less than 8 is

obtained by replacement of glutamine by glutamic acid and/or replacement of asparagine by aspartic acid in an amino acid sequence from a natural collagen protein.

23. (previously presented) Composition according to claim 2 wherein said recombinant gelatin-like protein comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 or SEQ ID NO: 4.

24. (previously presented) The process according to claim 10 wherein the recombinant gelatin-like protein monomer has a molecular weight of from at least 15,000 Daltons to at most 25,000 Daltons.

25. (previously presented) The process according to claim 10 wherein the recombinant gelatin-like protein has an isoelectric point of from at least 4 to at most 7.

26. (previously presented) The process according to claim 10 wherein the number of negatively charged amino acid residues at pH 8 in the recombinant gelatin-like protein minus the number of positively charged amino acid residues at pH 8 in the recombinant gelatin-like protein is at least 2, optionally at least 3.

27. (previously presented) The process according to claim 10 wherein the recombinant gelatin-like protein monomer is a human gelatin-like protein.

28. (previously presented) The process according to claim 10 wherein the recombinant gelatin-like protein comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 or of SEQ ID NO: 2 or of SEQ ID NO: 3 or of SEQ ID NO: 4.

29-30. (cancelled).

31. (previously presented) The composition according to claim 1 wherein the recombinant gelatin-like protein has one or more features selected from the group consisting of: at least 5% of the total number of amino acids is a proline residue; 3-dimensional globular domains are absent; at least 10% of the total number of amino acids is a proline residue; at least 15% of the total number of amino acids is a proline residue; 5% of the total number of amino acids is a proline residue and the proline residues are evenly distributed; having sequences comprising proline residues which do not give rise to globular domains as determined by computer modeling; and a sequence comprising stretches of more than 20 amino acids without a proline residue.

32. (previously presented) The process according to claim 10 comprising also employing recombinant gelatin-like protein monomer in a proportion to select a duration of the plasma expansion effect.

33. (new) A plasma substitute composition having a low blood clearance rate, the composition comprising a solution in saline, in a physiologically acceptable concentration, of a protein having a colloid osmotic function wherein the protein is a recombinant gelatin-like protein having a molecular weight of from at least 10,000 Daltons to at most 50,000 Daltons, has an isoelectric point of less than 8 and is not crosslinked by chemical modification.